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Dear President Clinton,

I am tired of constantly having to write the FDA in order to keep our food supply safe. I want to be able to choose my food wisely, however without concise, accurate labeling about its processing: irradiated, genetically engineered, sludge-fertilized, antibiotic fed meats, artificial hormone (rGBH), etc this is impossible.

The FDA is consistently taking the side of the big food companies, "oh this is safe - we don't need to label it". I disagree. Or almost as bad, allowing Orwellian terms such as "cold pasteurization" for irradiation. Let's call it what it is. (What are they afraid of... the truth?)

I would like to wait to determine the safety of genetically engineered products - both the safety on humans AND the environment. Industry doesn't have a good record on self-scrutiny of new technologies (think Three- Mile Island or DDT.) And right now the FDA and other regulatory agencies let industry "do their tests" and say "its safe". **This is not acceptable.**

A minimum responsibility would be to label and track genetically engineered crops. For example, peanut allergies can be caused by genetically engineered Brazil Nuts. However these items are NOT labeled. Mixing genes is not disclosed, so it is impossible to determine and fatal accidents are waiting to happen. Further pollen from genetically engineered products DOES drift and can cause other unforeseen problems.

I oppose the weakening of FDA standard on minimum acceptable pesticide use to allow "Round-Up Ready" seeds. Did you know that "Round Up Ready" seeds are a pesticide and contain three times the previously allowed pesticide residue? If the plants are so safe - why not label them and let the market decide - why hide behind lobbyists and the FDA?

Please fight for real voters, not food conglomerates. Please change the FDA advisory boards to include more organic farmers and consumer advocates and less industry.

Please help enact more legislation & rules to promulgate organic farming as well as more open space, more money for mass transit (and less for roads), lower taxes and leave Social Security, Medicare/Medicaid alone.

Sincerely,
Your constituent,


Terri Drach

98P-1194

C217

8-12-99/107.R

CROSS FILE SHEET

File Number: 98N-1038/c 4675

See File Number: 98P-1194/c 217
92N-0139/c 5833

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